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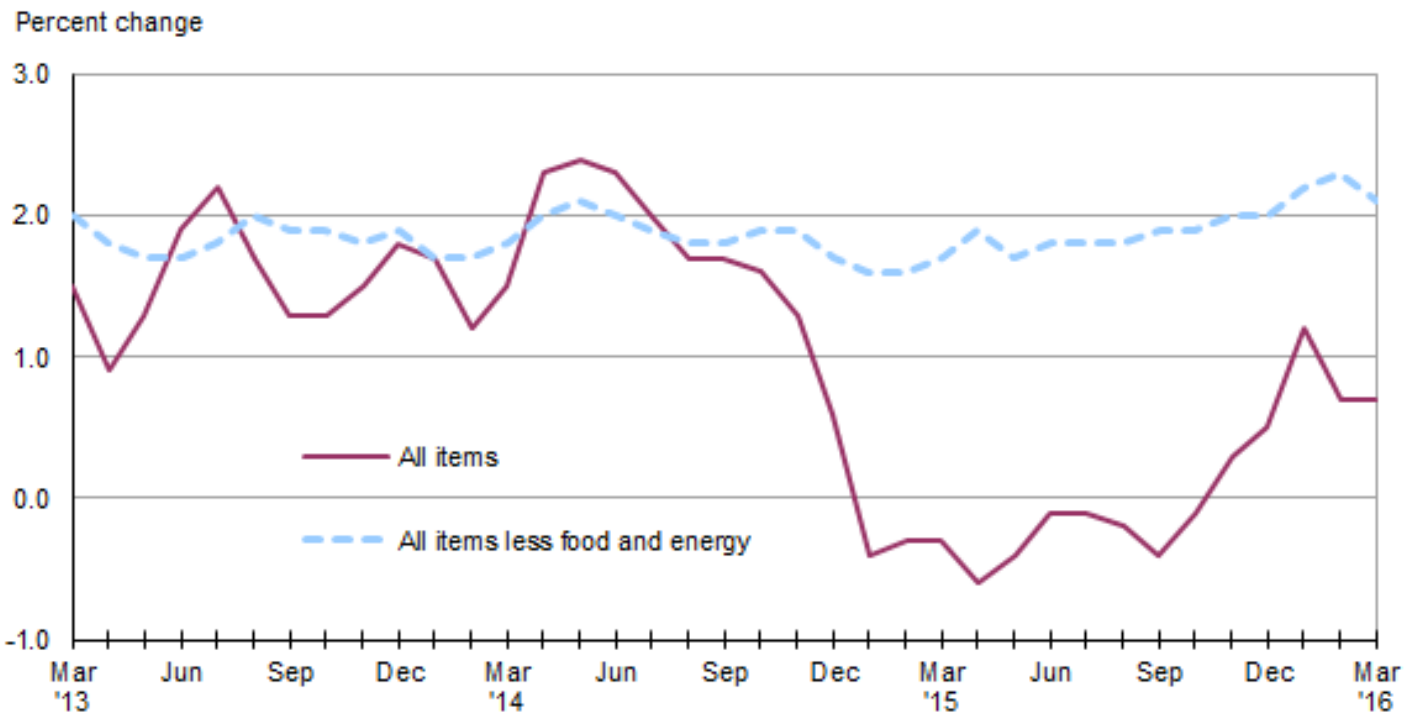
## **Consumer Price Index, South Region – March 2016**

### **Prices up 0.6 percent over the month and 0.7 percent over the year**

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the South rose 0.6 percent in March, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. The all items less food and energy index rose 0.4 percent and the energy index increased 4.3 percent over the month. The food index edged down 0.2 percent in March. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the all items CPI-U rose 0.7 percent. The all items less food and energy index advanced 2.1 percent over the year reflecting price increases for shelter, medical care, education and communication, and recreation. (See [chart 1.](#))

**Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, South region, March 2013–March 2016**



## Food

The food index edged down 0.2 percent in March. Prices for food at home declined 0.4 percent over the month, while those for food away from home inched up 0.1 percent.

Since March 2015, the food index advanced 0.5 percent, reflecting higher prices for food away from home, up 2.2 percent. The food at home index declined 0.7 percent over the year.

## Energy

The energy index advanced 4.3 percent in March, led by a 11.6-percent increase in motor fuel prices. The electricity and utility (piped) gas service indexes both declined over the month, down 0.7 and 0.1 percent, respectively.

Over the year, energy prices decreased 12.1 percent, reflecting a 20.5-percent drop in motor fuel prices. Prices for electricity (-3.6 percent) and utility (piped) gas service (-6.3 percent) also declined over the year.

## All items less food and energy

The all items less food and energy index rose 0.4 percent in March reflecting increases in several indexes, including a 3.4-percent seasonal increase in the apparel index. Other categories with monthly advances included shelter (0.3 percent) and recreation (1.0 percent).

Since March 2015, the all items less food and energy index advanced 2.1 percent, as several indexes increased, most notably shelter (2.7 percent). Medical care, led by an increase in medical care services (3.5 percent), rose 3.6 percent over the year. The education and communication, and recreation indexes increased 1.7 and 1.6 percent, respectively.

**Table A. South region CPI-U 1-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted**

Month	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January.....	0.5	3.2	0.4	1.6	0.3	1.7	-0.7	-0.4	0.0	1.2
February.....	0.6	3.3	0.9	1.8	0.4	1.2	0.5	-0.3	0.1	0.7
March.....	0.7	2.8	0.3	1.5	0.6	1.5	0.6	-0.3	0.6	0.7
April.....	0.4	2.5	-0.2	0.9	0.5	2.3	0.3	-0.6		
May.....	-0.4	1.6	0.0	1.3	0.2	2.4	0.4	-0.4		
June.....	-0.2	1.7	0.4	1.9	0.2	2.3	0.5	-0.1		
July.....	-0.2	1.4	0.2	2.2	-0.1	2.0	-0.1	-0.1		
August.....	0.6	1.6	0.1	1.7	-0.2	1.7	-0.2	-0.2		
September.....	0.5	2.1	0.0	1.3	0.1	1.7	-0.2	-0.4		
October.....	-0.2	2.1	-0.2	1.3	-0.3	1.6	0.0	-0.1		
November.....	-0.5	1.6	-0.3	1.5	-0.6	1.3	-0.2	0.3		
December.....	-0.1	1.7	0.1	1.8	-0.6	0.6	-0.4	0.5		

**The Consumer Price Index for April 2016 is scheduled to be released on Tuesday, May 17, 2016.**

## Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 89 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 28 percent of the total population.

The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 6,000 housing units and approximately 24,000 retail establishments—department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at [www.bls.gov/cpi](http://www.bls.gov/cpi) and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at <https://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/pdf/homch17.pdf>.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The **South region** is comprised of Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

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**Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods South (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)**

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Jan. 2016	Feb. 2016	Mar. 2016	Mar. 2015	Jan. 2016	Feb. 2016
<b>Expenditure category</b>						
All Items.....	229.469	229.646	230.977	0.7	0.7	0.6
All items (December 1977=100).....	372.230	372.517	374.676	-	-	-
Food and beverages .....	246.208	246.728	246.284	0.5	0.0	-0.2
Food .....	247.542	248.101	247.659	0.5	0.0	-0.2
Food at home .....	239.421	240.210	239.226	-0.7	-0.1	-0.4
Food away from home.....	262.498	262.719	263.080	2.2	0.2	0.1
Alcoholic beverages .....	227.087	227.009	226.532	0.6	-0.2	-0.2
Housing .....	223.068	223.206	223.438	1.6	0.2	0.1
Shelter .....	254.654	254.928	255.585	2.7	0.4	0.3
Rent of primary residence <sup>(1)</sup> .....	262.351	262.581	263.374	3.3	0.4	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of residences <sup>(1) (2)</sup> .....	256.983	257.037	257.340	2.5	0.1	0.1
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence <sup>(1) (2)</sup> .....	256.973	257.028	257.330	2.5	0.1	0.1
Fuels and utilities.....	223.934	223.084	222.014	-2.5	-0.9	-0.5
Household energy .....	180.941	180.066	178.979	-4.1	-1.1	-0.6
Energy services <sup>(1)</sup> .....	181.291	180.436	179.357	-3.9	-1.1	-0.6
Electricity <sup>(1)</sup> .....	181.197	180.587	179.393	-3.6	-1.0	-0.7
Utility (piped) gas service <sup>(1)</sup> .....	166.878	164.448	164.225	-6.3	-1.6	-0.1
Household furnishings and operations.....	121.496	121.849	121.449	-0.6	0.0	-0.3
Apparel.....	127.750	132.186	136.650	-0.5	7.0	3.4
Transportation .....	188.529	186.352	190.858	-3.4	1.2	2.4
Private transportation .....	186.199	183.783	188.487	-3.6	1.2	2.6
New and used motor vehicles <sup>(3)</sup> .....	102.782	103.611	104.169	0.9	1.3	0.5
New vehicles .....	153.743	154.845	154.794	0.9	0.7	0.0
New cars and trucks <sup>(3) (4)</sup> .....	104.659	105.455	105.423	1.0	0.7	0.0
New cars <sup>(4)</sup> .....	154.322	155.362	155.228	0.2	0.6	-0.1
Used cars and trucks.....	143.234	144.670	146.816	-0.1	2.5	1.5
Motor fuel .....	160.040	146.874	163.840	-20.5	2.4	11.6
Gasoline (all types).....	159.143	145.991	163.061	-20.3	2.5	11.7
Unleaded regular <sup>(4)</sup> .....	154.454	141.180	158.432	-21.3	2.6	12.2
Unleaded midgrade <sup>(4) (5)</sup> .....	178.593	166.183	183.692	-16.3	2.9	10.5
Unleaded premium <sup>(4)</sup> .....	180.635	169.145	183.411	-14.9	1.5	8.4
Medical care .....	432.458	435.890	436.755	3.6	1.0	0.2
Medical care commodities.....	345.566	349.499	349.968	3.8	1.3	0.1
Medical care services.....	461.806	464.990	466.003	3.5	0.9	0.2
Professional services .....	358.699	358.899	360.226	1.5	0.4	0.4
Recreation <sup>(3)</sup> .....	116.211	116.974	118.139	1.6	1.7	1.0
Education and communication <sup>(3)</sup> .....	137.146	137.103	137.169	1.7	0.0	0.0
Other goods and services .....	411.232	410.899	411.505	1.7	0.1	0.1
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
All Items.....	229.469	229.646	230.977	0.7	0.7	0.6
Commodities .....	177.079	176.861	178.844	-2.1	1.0	1.1
Commodities less food and beverages .....	144.653	144.146	147.046	-3.8	1.7	2.0
Nondurables less food and beverages.....	179.681	177.682	183.961	-5.9	2.4	3.5
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel .....	212.273	206.749	214.168	-7.6	0.9	3.6
Durables .....	110.366	110.975	111.241	-0.9	0.8	0.2
Services.....	282.219	282.779	283.493	2.5	0.5	0.3
Rent of shelter <sup>(2)</sup> .....	261.308	261.600	262.272	2.7	0.4	0.3
Transportation services .....	319.075	319.862	321.415	4.2	0.7	0.5

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods South (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued**

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Jan. 2016	Feb. 2016	Mar. 2016	Mar. 2015	Jan. 2016	Feb. 2016
Other services .....	336.477	337.634	339.449	3.0	0.9	0.5
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>						
All items less medical care .....	218.332	218.356	219.699	0.5	0.6	0.6
All items less food .....	226.460	226.578	228.181	0.7	0.8	0.7
All items less shelter .....	220.685	220.823	222.442	-0.2	0.8	0.7
Commodities less food .....	147.158	146.660	149.489	-3.6	1.6	1.9
Nondurables .....	211.267	210.472	213.535	-2.6	1.1	1.5
Nondurables less food .....	182.112	180.216	186.133	-5.5	2.2	3.3
Nondurables less food and apparel .....	212.443	207.383	214.132	-6.9	0.8	3.3
Services less rent of shelter <sup>(2)</sup> .....	317.339	318.256	319.045	2.4	0.5	0.2
Services less medical care services .....	265.952	266.328	267.011	2.4	0.4	0.3
Energy .....	167.911	161.619	168.538	-12.1	0.4	4.3
All items less energy .....	237.084	237.975	238.695	1.9	0.7	0.3
All items less food and energy .....	235.655	236.605	237.529	2.1	0.8	0.4
Commodities less food and energy commodities .....	146.663	147.921	148.832	-0.3	1.5	0.6
Energy commodities .....	163.543	150.400	167.238	-20.4	2.3	11.2
Services less energy services .....	292.863	293.582	294.498	3.0	0.6	0.3

**Footnotes**

(1) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(2) Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

(3) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

(4) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(5) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

- Data not available.

Regions defined as the four Census regions. South includes Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date. Data not seasonally adjusted.